

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9680

INFO AMCONSL LENINGRAD

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15914

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CGEN, UR

SUBJ: SITUATION OF SOVIET EVANGELICAL BAPTISTS: THE CASE
OF VLADIMIR HAILO

REF: STATE 248903 (NOTAL)

1. WE FIRST CAME IN CONTACT WITH VLADIMIR HAILO (AKA KHAILO)
WHEN EMBOFF ATTENDING TVERDOKHLEBOV TRIAL LAST APRIL MET
HIM AMONG DISSIDENTS WAITING IN FRONT OF COURTHOUSE. DURING
THAT BRIEF ENCOUNTER, HE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS DISSIDENT
BAPTIST, DESCRIBED MERCILESS HARASSMENT HE AND HIS FAMILY
HAD EXPERIENCED FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHERE HE LIVED
(ADDRESS HE GAVE WAS IDENTICAL TO ONE PROVIDED IN REFTTEL),
AND STATED HIS DESIRE TO EMIGRATE.

2. SECOND CONTACT OCCURRED SEVERAL WEEKS LATER (IN MAY OR
EARLY JUNE) WHEN EMBOFFS MET HAILO ON STREET AT A MEETING
ARRANGED BY LOCAL DISSIDENT (NOT A BAPTIST). HAILO
EXPLAINED THAT HE COULD NO LONGER ENDURE LIFE IN SOVIET
UNION AND WAS ANXIOUS TO LEARN ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR
EMIGRATING TO U.S. HE SAID HIS SON HAD BEEN CONVICTED
OF RAPE IN A FRAME-UP ARRANGED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHO
WERE NOW THREATENING TO REMOVE HIS OTHER CHILDREN FROM
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HIS CUSTODY. HE STATED THAT SOME TIME EARLIER HE HAD

TRIED TO APPLY FOR EMIGRATION AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY
BUT WAS NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER BY MILITIAMEN AT ENTRANCE
AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEATEN UP FOR MAKING ATTEMPT.
HAILO CLAIMED THAT OVIR HAD INFORMED HIM THAT HE WOULD
BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE IF HE RECEIVED A BYZOV. HE
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. BAPTISTS MIGHT SEND HIM A
VYZOV, EVENT THOUGH HE HAS NO RELATIVES IN U.S.

3. HAILO GAVE TO EMBOFFS A COPY OF BULLETIN NO. 24,
A SAMIZDAT PUBLICATION OF SOVIET EVANGELICAL BAPTISTS,
CONTAINING A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HIS SON'S TRIAL AND
CONVICTION ON A CHARGE OF RAPE; ALSO A COPY OF A
REFUSAL BY USSR PROKURATURA TO REVIEW THIS CASE. WE
RETAINED THIS MATERIAL AS RELEVANT IN THE EVENT HAILO
RECEIVED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO U.S., IN WHICH
CASE INS COULD WELL RAISE PROBLEM OF HIS SON'S
CONVICTION ON A CRIMINAL CHARGE. DETAILS OF TRIAL
CONTAINED IN THE BULLETIN AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF HAILO
CASE OF COURSE RAISE STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT TRIAL
AND CONVICTION OF SON WAS IN FACT A FRAME-UP.

4. ISSUE NO. 24 OF BULLETINA DN COMMUNICATION FROM
PROKURATURA BEING POUCHED TO EUR/SOV (WE SUGGEST THAT
THESE MATERIALS REMAIN ACCESSIBLE IN EVENT HAILO CASE
EVER COMES UP FOR CONSIDERATION AS IMMIGRATION MATTER).
WE HAVE NOT HAD SUBSEQUENT CONTACT WITH HAILO NOR HAVE
WE HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT HIM SINCE SECOND CONTACT. WE
WILL OF COURSE UNDERTAKE TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION.
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